

# **The Gospel of Luke**

## **Lesson 05**

Luke sets the historical context of the beginning of John's ministry, noting specifically that it was in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea and Annas and Caiaphas were high priests. As a messenger of God, John came as a prophet to his people in the spirit of Elijah to announce the coming of the Lord. His was a voice of warning calling in the desert, "Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him" (Luke 3:4).

John came preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins by proclaiming to those that came to see him, "I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worth to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire" (Luke 3:16-17). And when John saw Jesus, he was the one who said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world!" (John 1:29).

As you prepare to study the passages in this lesson, take a moment to thank the Lord for sending His prophet John and His Son, Jesus the Lamb of God, who takes away not only your sin and mine, but the sin of all who invite Him to be Savior and Lord. Ask Him for insight and understanding into His Word and remember that those who continue in His Word are truly His disciples.

### **The Baptism of Jesus**

1. Use a dictionary to define
  - A. Baptize

B. Baptism

C. Baptism of fire

2. Refer to Luke 3:3 and Matthew 3:6. What kind of baptism did John the Baptist proclaim?
  
3. Refer to Matthew 3:11 and Luke 3:15-16. What kind of baptism did John say Jesus would bring?
  
4. Read Acts 2:1-18, 21-24, 36-40 and Acts 19:1-7. What does it mean to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins?
  
5. Read Luke 3:21-22, Matthew 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-11 and John 1:29-31. Use these passages and those in questions 2 through 4.
  - A. What do you think John means when he says to Jesus, "I need to be baptized by you and do you come to me?"

- B. The prophet Isaiah exclaims, “Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down!” (64:1). Luke records (3:21a) that when all the people were baptized, Jesus was baptized too. What do you think Jesus means when He responds to John, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness”? Why?
- C. Read Exodus 29:1-9; Leviticus 8:1-12; 1 Samuel 16:1, 10-13; Hebrews 2:10-18, 4:14-16 and 1 Peter 3:18-22. What additional insight do these Scriptures provide into the ordination of Jesus as High Priest, thus fulfilling all righteousness?
- D. What does God the Father say to show His approval?
- E. What do the anointing with oil and descent of a “dove” symbolize?

6. Read Luke 3:23-37.

A. How old was Jesus when He began His ministry?

B. What observations can you make regarding the genealogy of Jesus?

C. Read Matthew 1:17. What similarities and differences do you notice in the two accounts of Jesus' genealogy? What might explain the difference?